MY ENGAGEMENTS FOR THE WEEK

Sunday, November 28

Monday, November 29

Tuesday, November 30

Wednesday, December 1

WHAT ARE WE HERE FOR?

~~PURPOSEFUL LIVING.~~

Esther 4:14 Who knoweth whether thou are not come to the kingdom for such a time as this?

Story of Esther almost universally known. A fascinating story it is to read, besides it is widely sung in contata and furnishes character-study for both lodges and churches.

And yet its back-ground and details are just as repulsive to me as those of many of our moving picture stories of today.

A drunken king calls for a public display of his drink-feasting queen who refuses. In his pique King Ahashuerus dethrones Vasti, calls for a line-up of all the prettiest girls of the realm and chooses Esther for his new queen. A plot against the king is disclosed to him by Mordicai thru Esther, which disclosure arouses the jealousy of Haman who secures a royal decree for the wanton murder of all Jews in the realm on a certain day.

Haman's attempt to hang Mordecaibut resulted in his own hanging, thanks to Esther's effective handling of the king, and Mordecai was made Chancellor in Haman's place. Then Esther pleads for her people that they be not destroyed according to the royal decree, and the King recalls the decree, giving Mordecai the power, in the King's name, to issue a new decree against the enemies of the Jews. As the result of the new decree the Jews slew 75,000 of their enemies in the realm and hung the the ten sons of Haman, after which the King laid still heavier tribute upon his people and Mordecai became still more powerful in his influence.

One has to but stop and think to realize what a low-down type of ruler Ahashuerus was and that under su such the common people suffered ignominies that would not be tolerated today. And yet, the historical setting of the story of Esther justifies a place for the Book of Esther in our Bible, presenting, as it does, an insight into the situation relative to the status of the Jews during the reign of Xerxes, whose persecution of the Jews wrote the history of the Maccabes.

Out of this mire of sordid intrigue, immoral living and unjust oppression arises the beautiful Esther even as out of our bogs God brings forth the beautiful water-lillies. And from this ancient oriental political bog we choose out text, Esther 4:14

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This question was put to Esther by Mordecai as his clinching argument that she should plead with the king on behalf of the condemned Jews.

Let me bring this question up to date by asking you another: "What are we here for?"

Each of us is but one of two billion humans on this earth- our years, at the most, are but a few and the individual is such mere speck of the whole, it does'nt seem possible that he is here except to live out his little existance and then pass on to give room for others.

History teaches us that there are a few outstanding personalities that seem to have lived for a definite purpose, but the masses of which we are an insiginificant part, what purpose do they serve?

Then so much seems to be determined by mere accident. Had I been born in India the chances are I would be a Mohammedan instead of a Xn. Or had I been born in Japan I might be a Buddhist or a Confucianist. This fact is a tremenduous challenge to our Christian faith. What are we here for?

Again, had I been born 500,000 yrs ago I would have ~~been~~ lived in the region of Java and would now be regarded as a specimen called Pithecanthropus erectus. ~~And/I/been/born/770,~~ ~~000/yrs/ago~~ or I would have been like the man known to scientists as a Heidelburg Man, called such because of certain bones found near the place of that name. In either case I would have left no posterity and would now be regarded as extinct upon the earth. To have contributed to our present stream of humanity I would have have had to live at least from 125,000 to 75,000 yrs ago and would have been what is known as a cave man, of the Old Stone Age. We are

what we are because of the generations of m men who lived before us. Then it must follow that what men of tomorrow are going to be depends upon what we are today. But I am what I am because of the fact that I am living here and now. The question is, am I here by accide nt or am I here for a purpose? What am I here for? What are you here for? Who knoweth whether thou art come to the kingdom for such a // time as this?

I. The sciences dealing with the earth and its changes, with life and its myriad of manifestations reveal the procedure of a Creative Intelligence, Will and Puppose beyond the shadow of a doubt to an honest, open-minded thinking person. After telling the fascinating story of the Earth and its Living creatures based upon the findings of the sciences, one writer concludes ~~by writing~~ as follows:

"Infinite Mind created man and chose to take sixteen million years to bring him along a crooked route and a hard path, to the place where he now stands. To require so long a time to do exactly what He knew, at the beginning, He wanted to do, may not seem much like Infinite Mind; but how competent are we to pass judgment upon such matters? Utterly incompetent. We should not let our small achievements in material matters blind us to the fact that our understanding is very ~~small~~ limited.

Our racial infancy, if not ended, is ending. After it, will come a long period of maturity, extending perhaps over many millions of years, in which man will really live and find life tremendously worth living.

MY SERMON NOTES

We were boys. Let us change "were" to "are". But we are growing up. The world we all want is just ahead of us. Each of us is a bridge over which our ~~ancestors~~ descendants must pass to get to it. What can we do that is more nearly worth while than to t try so to fan their imaginations that they will be fit to live in a real civilization when they get to it?

And what goes for one's own descendants goes for the offspring of all others. For, whether we yet know it or not, we are all brothers."

And may I add my humble testimony? What little of the sciences I studied in the university class rooms and laboratories and what since I have read and reflected upon compels me to endorse most heartily the conclusions of the writer I have just quoted. According to my way of thinking there is a Creative Intelligence, a Creative Will, a Creative Purpose manifest in every particle of matter, in every form of energy, in every protoplasm of life.

II. What is the answer of Christianity to our question?

Let me introduce what I here have to say by quoting Bosworth, the N.T.Prof. in the Oberlin Graduate School of Theology.

Read, marked passages in opening chapt. of "What It Means to be a Christian".

MY SERMON NOTES.

1. Mordecai made it plain to Esther that she could not escape in the seclusion of the palace; that if she did not help her people, help would come from some ot other source, but she and her palace would be destroyed.

We are all bound together in a bundle of interests. "No man liveth unto himself" Especially is this true of us Xns. When we give ourselves to Christ, we give ourselves to His interests, to His kingdom. The very act of accepting X is a consecration to his service, not alone for what X can do for us, but as much for what we can do for him.

Remember, like Esther, you cannot separate yourself from your people or from your God.

2. Our consideration this morning ought to make us feel our personal responsibility as Xns.

Have you ever read your name in the Bible? Robert E. Speer, addressing a group of young people read John 1:6 " "There came a man sent from God whose name was Robert Speer." Then he reread the verse to to indicate each young person to whom he was speaking.

"There came a man sent from God whose name was Fruhling. Mention other names of those present.

Who knoweth whether thou art not come to Vacaville for such a time as this?